Aksana Samoylov

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Instructor: Dr. Sharon A. O’Connor-Petruso

**Reflection #2**

***How important is the literature review (and differentiating between various types of journals) and assessing prior research, theorists, and current instructional strategies?***

## To start with, I need to mention what a literature review is. According to [the Writing Center at UNC-Chapel Hill](http://writingcenter.unc.edu/), “literature review discusses published information in a particular subject area, and sometimes information in a particular subject area within a certain time period.

A literature review can be just a simple summary of the sources, but it usually has an organizational pattern and combines both summary and synthesis. It might give a new interpretation of old material or combine new with old interpretations. Or it might trace the intellectual progression of the field, including major debates. And depending on the situation, the literature review may evaluate the sources and advise the reader on the most pertinent or relevant” (UNC-Chapel Hill, n.d).

If we look at the differences between the literature review and an academic research paper, then we notice that an academic research paper is mostly done to develop a new argument, and is likely contains a literature review as one of its parts. While doing a research paper, you need to support your idea or statement with the literature that will work as a foundation. And the more reliable sources you pick such as peer-reviewed articles from published books and journals, the more weight your research will have.

Why is it important to differentiate between various types of journals? Well, as I mentioned earlier, different types of resources (newspapers, magazines, website publications, books, journals, published articles, etc.) have different levels of reliability of information. It is important, especially for beginners, to differentiate the sources and be able to assess prior researches. Not every research even from the peer-reviewed journal can be helpful. Some of them can be outdated already. Likewise with the prior research, it is important to be familiar with different theories that relate to your topic of a research. I think that we cannot base our researches only on one specific theory. In reality, there are so many other variables that can intervene, affect results or simply put the validity of a research under a big question mark. Therefore, just finding the prior studies and researches is not enough. Assessing and understanding the selected resources and including the current instructional strategies will make a research paper more reliable.

References:

## [The Writing Center at UNC-Chapel Hill](http://writingcenter.unc.edu/). (n. d.). Retrieved from <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/>

## handouts/literature-reviews/